

REMARKS

Claims 1–27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Friesen et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,113,956. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the Office Action, Friesen et al. disclosed inner wing sections (76) operatively pivotally attached ... to each end of the center section. A notable difference between the pivotal attachment of Friesen et al. and that of the instant invention is the orientation of the pivot axis. As shown in Fig. 3 of the Friesen et al. disclosure, the pivotal attachment of the inner wing section (76) to the center section (66) resides on “a pivotal axis referred to generally by the reference numeral **92**” (col. 4 lines 24–25). Pivotal axis (92) is substantially *vertical*.

In contradistinction, the pivotal attachment (320) between the center section (210a, 210b) and the inner wing sections (220) of the instant invention are *horizontal*. An example of a horizontal pivotal attachment (320) is clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of the instant application.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, 19, 24–26 are currently amended to limit the pivotal attachment of the inner wings to the center section to a pivot having a horizontal axis. The instant invention enjoys the advantage of greater flexibility on uneven ground because of this horizontal pivot axis of the pivot joint between the inner wing sections and the center section.

Therefore, Friesen et al. did not anticipate every limitation of the amended independent claims 1, 11, 19, 24–26. As the independent claims are believed to be allowable, those claims depending on the independent claims are also believed to be allowable.

Claim 18 is currently amended to remedy two typographical errors.

Claims 28–31 are hereby added to further define the invention.

Accordingly, since all remaining claims 1–31 are believed to be clearly allowable, a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Vaughn L. Bauer

June 28, 2007

By: /Michael O. Sturm/
Michael O. Sturm
Reg. No. 26,078

STURM & FIX LLP
206 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1213
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4076
Phone: 515-288-9589
Fax: 515-288-4860
e-mail: sturm@hslp.com